

physicians can provide the information that is required in this legislation. That is important because I think it minimizes a structure that could be used to harass physicians at the clinics. It also is I think a more...a better practice in light of the fact that if a physician is giving information that is not specific to the client in the sense that it is based on medical evaluation, that it is general information, that it is appropriate to be given by others who can give it and still answer questions that provide good information about the medical based questions that may be asked by the woman. I think the second thing is the part that allows a physician or a physician's agent to disassociate themselves from the materials to say I am required to do this to you. I don't agree with every thing in it, or I would like to comment on some of the things that are in it, because I think one of the things that is difficult about this kind of legislation is we really are invading the physician-client relationship when we mandate what physicians must tell their clients. And for that reason, if we are going to do it, it is important that the physician be able to disassociate themselves from that requirement. I think in the interest of their professional judgment, they should be able to do that. We've already talked about the importance of having included in the information resources that would assist a woman in avoiding unwanted pregnancies in the future, and then the fourth change that is in there is a recognition that physicians who are going to perform the abortion would give certain information to the woman. I have to share with you that I find it interesting that one of the reasons we have to go through this whole process of figuring out how to get information to women in a timely fashion have come about in this country because we have blocked information, because we have blocked access to women about...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...abortion as well as other information regarding their reproduction. Senator Crosby shared with us some information from a French scientist, and I don't know if he was speaking from his own country, but it is interesting, in France, a colleague of mine in Minneapolis was sharing that there is no big discussion about 24-hour waiting periods or giving good information to women, but that is just standard practice regarding any medical procedure. The difference is, the difference is in France, there is no attempt to block access. There is no harassment of physicians and women. There